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Recent achievements in removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade: experience from the Caucasus and the Balkans

Recent achievement in removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade: experience from the Caucasus and the Balkans*

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

During its meeting of 12 July 2013, the Bureau of the Committee on Trade requested the secretariat to prepare background notes for informing discussions among member States about addressing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the UNECE region. The bureau advised that the background notes should highlight pertinent issues in sub-regional groups that have not yet been included in the UNECE's needs assessment studies.

To this end, the UNECE approached member States from the Balkans and the Caucasus with a proposal to discuss recent achievements in removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the two regions at the sixth session of the Committee on Trade. It was agreed that the emphasis should be on bringing forward the experiences of individual countries, particularly in relation to challenges faced in implementing internationally recognised best practices.

This paper provides background information for supporting the Committee on Trade Discussions.

* This document was submitted late due to delayed inputs.

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I. Introduction

1. The Caucasus and Balkan regions are home to the bulk of transition economies, with the first comprising Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The second region, also referred to as Southeast Europe or Western Balkans, includes Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Serbia and UNMIK/Kosovo[1], in addition to Greece and the European side of Turkey. Other countries that are commonly considered as part of the Balkans are Romania, Slovenia, Moldova, and, to an extent, the Asian side of Turkey.

2. The development challenges facing the transition economies in the two regions vary by size, location and natural resource endowments. For example, Armenia, Azerbaijan, FYROM and Moldova are landlocked, so that participation in international trade is complicated by the additional transaction costs that the enterprises accrue for transportation. Azerbaijan stands out as the only country with rich endowments of oil and gas.

3. In addressing development challenges and opportunities, the Balkan and Caucasus transition economies have persistently followed trade-led development strategies. Individual countries pursued multifaceted market-opening bilateral and regional initiatives, which resulted in an array of trade agreements that vary considerably in terms of membership, sector coverage, movements of production factors, depth of tariff cuts and reduction of non-tariff measures, relationship with non-members, dispute settlement and decision-making processes.

4. For the Balkan transition economies, regional integration has been mainly pursued within the context of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA). Considered as the main tool for supporting countries' preparations for accession to the European Union, CEFTA membership comprise Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROM, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and UNMIK/ Kosovo.

5. Yet another strategic path pursued by the Balkan and Caucasus transition economies has been the consolidation of bilateral and regional agreements with multilateral initiatives. With the exception of Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo, all the Caucasus and Balkan transition economies are members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).[2]

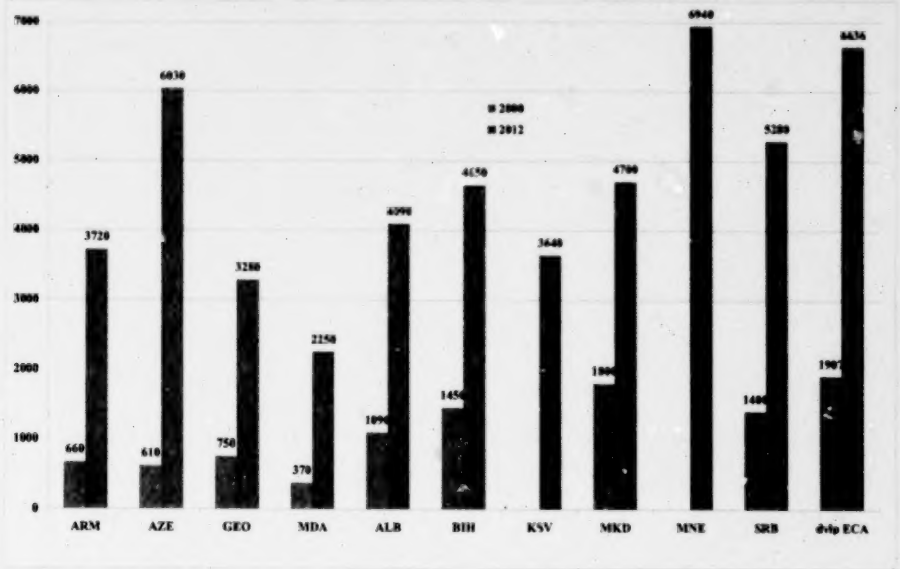
6. The above-mentioned efforts have borne fruit. All the transition economies registered impressive income growth following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, driven by large investment inflows and private consumption as the then newly independent countries forged ahead in establishing trade-driven market based economies. By 2012, nominal gross national income (GNI) per capita skyrocketed to new levels, so that it increased by a factor of 2.6 in Macedonia in relation to 2000 (i.e., reached 2.6 times its 2000 level), 3.2 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 3.8 in Albania and Serbia, 4.4 in Georgia, 5.6 in Armenia, 6.1 in Moldova and 9.9 in Azerbaijan (Figure 1).[3]

[1] The territory administered by the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) is hereafter called shortly Kosovo. The designation used in this paper does not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations..

[2] Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia are WTO observers

[3] World Bank Development Indicators at: http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GNP.ATLS.CD

Figure 1: GNI per capita, Atlas method (current USD)



Source: World Bank Development Indicators[4]

Key: ARM - Armenia; AZE - Azerbaijan; GEO – Georgia; MDA- Moldova; ALB-Albania; BIH- Bosnia and Herzegovina; KSV-Kosovo; MKD – Macedonia; MNE-Montenegro; SRB-Serbia.

7. This positive trend masks disparities within the Balkans and the Caucasus. GNI per capita varies from a high of USD 6,940 in Montenegro to a low of USD 2,250 in Moldova. Moreover, with the exception of Montenegro, all the countries fall below the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) developing countries average of USD 6,656 (Figure 1).

8. These disparities reflect uneven progress in inducing structural transformation away from the production of primary goods. As shown in table 1, primary goods continue to dominate the exports of the Balkan and Caucasus transition economies. For example, hydrocarbons accounted for 94 per cent of Azerbaijan total exports in 2012. Ores and metals stood as the major export items originating from Montenegro (44.1 per cent of total exports in 2012), Armenia (with an increasing share that reached 33.7 per cent of total exports in 2012), and to a lesser extent, Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Food products dominate the exports of Moldova and Georgia, while fuels constituted a quarter of Albania's exports. Moreover, while several countries have registered increased contribution of manufacturing to exports, goods are predominantly of low value-added so that trade sector's contribution to income generation is undermined.

[4] See, World Bank Development Indicators at: http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GNP.ATLS.CD. Details on the World Bank Atlas method for estimating GNI per capita are available at: http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications/country-and-lending-groups.

Table 2. The Balkans and Caucasus major exports in 2000-2012[5]

(as percentage of total exports)

Region	Economy		*All food items (SITC 0 + 1 + 22 + 4)*	*Agricultural raw materials (SITC 2 less 22, 27 and 28)*	*Ores and metals (SITC 27 + 28 + 68)*	*Fuels (SITC 3)*	*Pearls, precious stones and non-monetary gold (SITC 667 + 971)*	*Chemical products (SITC 5)*	*Machinery and transport equipment (SITC 7)*	*Other manufactured goods (SITC 6 + 8 less 667 and 68)*
FSU	ARM	2000	11.0	3.2	16.4	6.9	32.7	1.6	12.1	16.1
		2006	12.6	2.8	22.8	1.8	23.6	0.8	3.1	**32.6**
		2012	24.1	0.0	**33.7**	5.5	12.3	1.6	5.2	17.6
	AZE	2000	5.5	3.1	2.6	**79.0**	0.0	3.9	4.0	1.9
		2006	3.7	0.7	3.1	**87.6**	0.0	1.8	1.4	1.8
		2012	2.8	0.1	0.9	**94.0**	0.0	0.9	0.3	1.0
	GEO	2000	28.2	3.0	29.1	8.2	n/a	10.7	12.0	8.8
		2006	25.0	2.3	21.7	3.2	5.2	8.3	16.6	17.8
		2012	21.6	0.7	7.3	2.1	3.8	11.5	31.6	21.6
	MDA	2000	**47.1**	2.5	3.1	0.1	0.0	1.5	7.2	**38.5**
		2006	**38.0**	0.7	3.7	0.4	0.0	2.2	5.4	**49.5**
		2012	**37.2**	0.7	3.0	2.1	0.1	4.2	15.5	**37.2**
Western Balkans	ALB	2000	6.2	6.4	3.8	1.6	0.0	0.9	4.3	**76.7**
		2006	5.5	4.6	13.1	5.9	0.0	0.7	4.8	**65.3**
		2012	4.4	2.7	13.4	25.3	0.0	1.4	3.9	**48.9**
	BIH	2000	3.7	20.3	23.2	6.3	0.0	3.9	6.7	**36.0**
		2006	4.8	8.0	22.4	6.8	0.0	3.6	15.5	**38.9**
		2012	7.6	6.8	14.1	9.1	0.2	6.1	15.1	**41.1**
	MKD	2000	15.0	1.7	8.8	4.8	0.0	4.5	6.3	**58.8**
		2006	16.1	0.8	4.3	9.4	0.1	4.2	4.9	**60.3**
		2012	14.9	0.6	6.3	6.4	0.0	17.0	9.9	**44.9**
	MNE	2012	15.5	6.5	**44.1**	13.8	0.5	3.3	7.1	9.2
	SRB	2012	23.6	1.7	9.0	3.6	0.1	8.2	22.6	**31.3**
	SRB+ MNE	2000	17.3	5.8	15.9	0.3	0.0	8.7	12.8	**39.3**
		2006	16.8	2.5	16.5	2.4	0.1	9.5	10.4	**41.7**

[5] Source: UNCTADstat, http://unctadstat.unctad.org

9. With the exception of the oil and gas rich Azerbaijan, such a narrow export mix has been fuelling chronic trade deficits in all of the Balkans and Caucasus countries. Financed by official development assistance and other transfers, these deficits are becoming increasingly difficult to address in the wake of the global economic crisis that has created downward pressure on income growth. Among the hardest hit by the crisis have been Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, which have been suffering from the decreased demand for their products, limited access to funding, reduced foreign direct investment inflows, and the dwindling of remittances from migrant workers.[6]

Table 3: Trade balance of goods and services in the Balkans and the Caucasus in 2003-2012[7]

(as a percentage of gross domestic product)

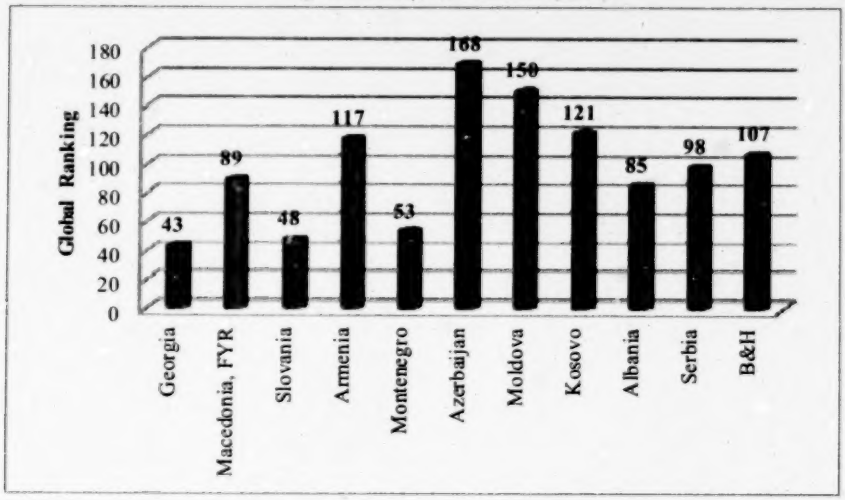
Country	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*
Armenia	-17.9	-15.6	-14.4	-15.9	-20.0	-25.6	-27.5	-24.5	-23.6	-24.2
Azerbaijan	-23.5	-23.9	10.0	27.7	39.6	42.3	28.5	33.6	32.3	28.1
Georgia	-14.6	-16.6	-17.8	-24.2	-26.7	-29.8	-19.2	-17.8	-18.6	-19.3
Moldova	-33.8	-31.3	-40.5	-46.6	-49.7	-52.8	-36.6	-39.3	-40.9	-40.6
Albania	-25.3	-21.8	-24.1	-24.1	-26.2	-26.6	-25.1	-21.4	-22.8	-17.8
Bosnia & Herzegovina	-52.9	-45.3	-39.5	-29.3	-36.5	-36.7	-22.7	-20.6	-24.0	-24.0
Kosovo	N/A	N/A	N/A	-36.7	-35.9	-38.0	-35.1	-36.1	-37.6	-34.4
Macedonia	-16.4	-20.1	-17.0	-17.8	-18.4	-25.3	-21.9	-18.7	-19.5	-22.4
Montenegro	-16.4	-16.1	-17.5	-29.7	-42.3	-54.5	-33.3	-28.4	-26.0	-23.7
Serbia	-19.5	-26.6	-21.0	-21.6	-24.2	-26.6	-17.6	-17.1	-16.0	N/A
ECA developing	-3.7	-4.3	-4.4	-5.1	-6.0	-5.8	-2.2	-3.5	-4.5	-4.5

10. It is against this background that the Balkan and Caucasus transition economies are exhibiting renewed efforts to address weaknesses in the overall regulatory and institutional set up. While the broad picture emerging from the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business is one of improvement, there remains room for improvement, particularly in the area of trade facilitation. As shown in figure 2, most of the countries have low ranking on the "trading across borders" indicator, with Azerbaijan accorded the lowest rank (168 out of 189 countries in 2014).

[6] See, for example, Western Balkans Investment Framework (2013), "Outlook for Macroeconomic Development in the Western Balkans: IFI Coordination Office", Data update May 2013.

[7] Calculations based on the World Bank World Development Indicators, available online at: http://api.worldbank.org/v2/en/indicator/ne.exp.gnfs.zs?downloadformat=excel

Figure 2. Balkans and Caucasus ranking on ease of doing business trading across borders indicator (2014)



11. As shown in table 3, exporting from Azerbaijan requires 9 documents, an average of 28 days and entails an average cost of $3,540 per container, which exceed the Europe and Central Asia Region and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) averages. For countries with high rankings, such as Georgia, trade is undermined by weak quality control infrastructure. Traders accrue additional costs as their products are often subjected to re-testing in export markets.

Table 3. The Balkans and Caucasus regions raking on the World Bank ease of doing business trading across borders indicator (2004-2014)

Region	*Country*	*Year*	*Documents to export (number)*	*Time to export (days)*	*Cost to export (US$ per container)*	*Documents to import (number)*	*Time to import (days)*	*Cost to import (US$ per container)*
FSU	ARM	2004	..	..	..	..	..	..
		2009	6	33	1,816	8	24	2,091
		2014	5	16	1,885	8	18	2,175
	AZE	2004	..	..	..	..	..	..
		2009	9	34	3,515	11	36	3,420
		2014	9	28	3,540	11	25	3,560
	GEO	2004	..	..	..	..	..	..
		2009	8	12	1,380	7	14	1,340
		2014	4	9	1,355	4	10	1,595
	MDA	2004	..	..	..	..	..	..

Region	*Country*	*Year*	*Documents to export (number)*	*Time to export (days)*	*Cost to export (US$ per container)*	*Documents to import (number)*	*Time to import (days)*	*Cost to import (US$ per container)*
		2009	7	32	1,765	8	35	2,090
		2014	7	32	1,545	8	35	1,870
Western Balkans	ALB	2004	..	..	..	..	..	..
		2009	7	21	770	8	22	775
		2014	7	19	745	8	18	730
	BIH	2004	..	..	..	..	..	..
		2009	8	17	1,090	8	13	1,035
		2014	8	16	1,260	8	13	1,200
	KSV	2014	8	15	1,775	7	15	1,810
	MKD	2004	..	..	..	..	..	..
		2009	6	15	1,315	8	13	1,325
		2014	6	12	1,376	8	11	1,380
	MNE	2009	7	14	940	6	14	995
		2014	6	14	985	5	14	985
	SRB	2004	..	..	..	..	..	..
		2009	6	13	1,398	7	16	1,659
		2014	6	12	1,455	7	15	1,760
Europe and Central Asia		2014	7	25	2,109	8	26	2,339
OECD		2014	4	11	1,070	4	10	1,090

II. Discussion points

12. The session is meant to serve as an executive forum for exchanging views and experiences in implementing reform measures for reducing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in goods. Consistent with the UNECE Buy-Ship-Pay (B-S-P) reference model,[8] the discussion will focus on the whole gamut of business processes (i.e., logically connected activities by traders) and regulatory activities (i.e., logically connected activities by state entities) associated with the movement of goods and related information across

[8] UNECE reference models in consultation with stakeholders from UNECE member states representing public authorities, the private sector, and academia.

borders from buyer to seller across the international trade supply chain.[9] This includes commercial processes (associated with the establishment of commercial contracts); transport (associated with the arrangement of inland and cross-border transportation of goods); regulatory (associated with regulatory activities); and, financial processes (associated with the payment for purchased goods). These processes correspond to the following 10 Chapters of the international non-tariff measures classification : [10]

- Sanitary an phytosanitary measures
- Technical barriers to trade
- Pre-shipment inspection and other formalities
- Price control measures, including additional taxes and charges
- Finance measures
- Measures affecting competition
- Distribution restrictions
- Government procurement restrictions
- Rules of Origin
- Export-related measures

[9] An international trade supply chain refers to a global network of business entities involved in the procurement, manufacturing, distribution and payment activities for products that are destined for export/import

[10] In particular the classification developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Multi Agency Support Team (UNCTAD- MAST). The classification includes 16 chapters in total.

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda
ECE country studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade: follow-up and policy implications

ECE country studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade: follow-up and policy implications

Removing Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Belarus

Summary

The Government of the Republic of Belarus is implementing an action plan for removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade. The plan takes into account priority areas identified in the UNECE needs assessment study that was carried out in 2011.

The Government wishes to bring this plan to the attention of the Committee on Trade for information.

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Programme level action matrix for removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the Republic of Belarus

Programme	*Overall development objective*	*Expected results*	*Time frame*	*Implementing Institutions*
The state programme of information technologies implementation in Belarus for 2003 - 2005 and till 2010 ("Electronic Belarus")	Design a unified automated information system for Customs administration based on international standards recommended by the World Customs Organization	- Simplified and standardized customs procedures -Goods are cleared in a shorter time frame (5 folds faster). - Collection, processing and analysis of information is conducted in "real time" mode - Information is centralized in a unified information system that is maintained by the customs. - Violations of customs regulations are effectively pre-empted. -Improved flow of information and data exchange for supporting customs procedures and decision-making processes.	2003-2005	State Customs Committee of Belarus (SCC)
	Institutionalize the unified automated information system for customs administration for improving the quality of Customs services	- Customs officers no longer deal with routine manual operations and focus on control and analytical functions - Customs procedures are implemented in an effective and efficient manner - Transaction costs facing traders are reduced to minimum levels	2008-2010	SCC
	Develop and implement the interdepartmental distributed information system "Data Bank of e-passports of goods"	- Reduction of the conformity assessment costs for the participants of foreign economic activity - Increase the effectiveness of the conformity assessment procedures and the foreign trade regulation due to the implementation of EDI	2009-2010	Gosstandart, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, National Academy of Sciences
The state program for the	Develop inspection facilities	- Improved efficiency and effectiveness of	2011-2015	Ministry of Transport, SCC, State

Programme	*Overall development objective*	*Expected results*	*Time frame*	*Implementing Institutions*
development of Belarus' transit potential for 2011-2015	at border crossing points located at main road and railway stations and transit routes, and introducing information and communication systems for supporting customs and other types of controls	control functions at border crossing points (border guards, customs, transport inspection and others). - Waiting time is reduced to minimum levels; - Improved information flows and data exchange between control agencies at border crossing points - Necessary requirements are taken for continuation of consultations with the European Union on cooperation in transport and customs spheres, and the unification of customs clearance procedures for goods and vehicles.		Border Committee, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture
Improving risk assessment and management systems at main border crossing points[1]	Increase the effectiveness of control procedures at main border crossing points	- Reduction of time and financial costs associated with customs and other types of border controls . - Create common risk profiles for main border control agencies. - Optimization of the border control officers work load and increasing the effectiveness of border control systems	2010-2015	SCC, State Border Guard
Creation of the public Advisory Council under the State customs Committee of Belarus[2]	Implement the principle of public private partnership for improving customs procedures	- Customs administration improved - Optimal conditions are created for business with regard to the implementation of customs procedures and regulations - Cost and time of carrying out export-import procedures are reduced	2012	SCC

[1] The concept of risk assessment and management system for the period of 2010-2015 and in perspective to 2020; the Regulations on the risk assessment and management system and some issues of customs bodies and national authorities interaction in the framework of the system

[2] The Regulations on the Social and Advisory Council under the State Customs Committee of Belarus, Decree of the Chairman of Belarus State Customs Committee № 328-OD, dated 03.08.2012

ECE/TRADE/C/2014/4

Programme	*Overall development objective*	*Expected results*	*Time frame*	*Implementing Institutions*
Programme for the development of automated logistics information systems for the period till 2015	Realize Belarus' transit potential within the international transport corridors	- Modern information systems and software developed for supporting the preparation of the customs declaration and support documents by traders - Electronic documents are developed for supporting transport and logistics processes	2009-2015	Ministry of Transport, SCC, Ministry of Communications, Beltamozservice
Two services at the border[3]	Implement the principle of coordinated border management	- Transfer to the SCC the control functions of the following border control agencies (located at the border crossing points): vehicle inspection, veterinary inspection, phytosanitary inspection and the sanitary inspection. The current border management system under the control of customs is limited to the coordination of the activities of border control services; the determination of the place for submission the documents and the execution of control operations for the transport, veterinary, phytosanitary and sanitary inspections; the coordination of information flows and technical support of the border control agencies. - Transfer to the State Border Guard sanitary and quarantine inspection of persons.	2013	SCC, State Border Guard, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Transport
TAIEX — Technical Assistance and Information Exchange	Provide theoretical and practical seminars aimed at raising awareness and understanding of the EU conformity assessment practices and legislation.	- Increased effectiveness of the conformity assessment procedures in Belarus - Facilitation of mutual recognition agreements between Belarus and the EU in order to avoid re-testing and re-certification	2013	Gosstandard
The Single Electronic	Create the single electronic	- Simplification of administrative procedures	2014-2015	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

[3] On the improvements of the border crossing procedures for the physical persons, vehicles and goods across the state border of Belarus, Decree of the CM of Belarus № 309, dated 24.04.2013

Programme	*Overall development objective*	*Expected results*	*Time frame*	*Implementing Institutions*
Document for Foreign trade Deal and the Single Foreign Trade Portal	data exchange window for traders and agencies and the implementation of a single electronic document of trade deals, replacing a number of paper documents.	for exporters and importers of goods. - Reduction of administrative burden on businesses. - Reduction of time and financial costs for traders due to decreasing number of documents and avoiding duplication of data presented to various regulatory authorities. - Transformation of paper documents into electronic documents.		
Support the quality control infrastructure - Food safety	Improve the Belarusian system of food safety and quality assurance through gradual convergence with the EU quality infrastructure	- Belarus' legislation in the field of accreditation is compliant with the EC Regulation 765/2008, the international standards and the European accreditation practice for joining the international and regional accreditation organizations of International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA). - New agreements on the mutual recognition of conformity assessment	2012-2014	Gosstandart
Implementation of the coordinated policy in technical regulation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures in the Eurasian Economic Community[4]	Implement commitments within the context of the Eurasian Economic Community	- Adoption of common rules of technical regulation, sanitary and phytosanitary controls. - Harmonization of standards.[5] - Application of common forms and rules for conformity assessment and its general harmonization. - Development and application of comparable test (control and measurement) methods for conformity assessment of products or		Gosstandart

[4] Agreement on conducting coordinated policy in technical regulation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures in the Eurasian Economic Community, dated 25.01.2009.
[5] Agreement on the fundamentals of harmonization of technical regulations of the Eurasian Economic Community member states, dated 24.03.2005.

Programme	*Overall development objective*	*Expected results*	*Time frame*	*Implementing Institutions*
		production processes. - Accreditation of conformity assessments bodies and testing laboratories involved in the process of mandatory conformity assessments. [6] - Use of common forms of documents on the conformity assessment adopted with the technical regulations of the Customs Union.[7] - Application of the single conformity assessments sign of the Customs Union member States.[8] - Application of the Unified list of products subject to the mandatory conformity assessment in the Customs Union with the issuance of common documents.[9]		
Creation of information system of the Eurasian economic community in technical regulation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures[10]	Develop the information flow and data exchange between the Eurasian economic community member states in the areas of technical regulation, sanitary, veterinary and phytosanitary measures	- Provision and exchange of information on the documents of the member states in the technical regulation, sanitary and phytosanitary controls - Provision the information support for the processes of technical regulations development in the Eurasian economic community - Mutual recognition of the accreditation of the certification (conformity assessment) bodies and testing laboratories responsible for conformity assessment (confirmation)[11].	2009	Gosstandart

[6] The single registry of certification bodies and testing laboratories (centres) of the Customs Union, the Decision of the Customs Union Commission of 07.04.2011, № 620

[7] The Agreement on common principles and rules of technical regulation in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia, dated 18.11.2010

[8] The Agreement on the application of the single mark for products on the market of States-members of the Eurasian economic community, dated 19.05.2006

[9] The Unified list of products subject to mandatory conformity assessment (confirmation) in the Customs Union with the issuance of common documents, Decision of the Commission of the Customs Union № 620, dated 07.04.2011,

[10] The Agreement on creation of information system of the Eurasian economic community in technical regulation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, the Decision of the EurAsEC interstate Council № 400, dated 12.12.2008

[11] The Agreement on mutual recognition of accreditation of certification bodies (conformity assessment (confirmation)) and testing laboratories (centres), performing conformity assessment (confirmation) , dated 11.12.2009, and the Agreement on mutual recognition of results of works on accreditation in conformity assessment, dated 21.05.2003

Programme	*Overall development objective*	*Expected results*	*Time frame*	*Implementing Institutions*
Creation of the integrated information system of the Customs Union.[12]	Create the integrated information system for supporting interstate data and electronic documents exchange in relation to the following types of control: customs; tax; phytosanitary; veterinary; sanitary; transport.	- Removal of legal barriers to use of electronic documents in foreign and mutual trade on the basis of unification of information requirements and electronic documents in the sphere of customs	2010	SCC
Euro-Asian cooperation of national metrological institutions	Implement the Agreement of the International Committee for weights and measures on mutual recognition of national measurement standards and calibration and measurement certificates issued by the national metrology institutes	- Reduction of transaction costs (finance and time wise) associated with conformity assessment procedures based on recognition of national metrology certificates		Gosstandart
Assessment of technical barriers to trade in the Republic of Belarus in the context of obligations under the Customs Union Common economic space, the regulation of the Eurasian economic community (EURASEC) and the requirements of the WTO agreement	Assist the Government of Belarus in acceding the WTO by strengthening national expertise and building institutional capacity, improving the national technical regulation in accordance with regional and international standards	- Decreasing the technical barriers to trade - Improving the technical regulation in Belarus according to the international and regional best practice	2013	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

[12] The Agreement on establishment, operation and development of integrated information system of foreign and mutual trade of the Customs Union, dated 21.09.2010, and the Agreement on application of information technologies when exchanging electronic documents in foreign and mutual trade of the customs territory of the Customs Union, 21.09.2010

Programme	*Overall development objective*	*Expected results*	*Time frame*	*Implementing Institutions*
The assistance to the Government of the Republic of Belarus in the WTO accession through strengthening the national expertise and institutional capacity	Assist the Government of Belarus in accession to the WTO by strengthening national expertise and building institutional capacity, improving the foreign trade policy, and raising the awareness about the benefits and consequences of the WTO accession.	- Technical barriers to trade removed - Technical regulation in Belarus compliant with international best practices - Implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation	03/2008 – 07/2013	Ministry of Foreign Affairs